



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# PRESS RELEASE

**Police Department**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 7, 2015

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### **MAN ARRESTED FOR EXTORTION IN ADA ACCESS FRAUD SETTLEMENTS**

**Riverside, CA** – Members of the Riverside Police Department Economic Crimes Unit, Riverside County District Attorney's Office, The Arc of Riverside County, and the Riverside Commission on Disabilities held a Press Conference May 7, 2015 at 9:00 AM at the Arc Building in Riverside, CA. The press conference was to provide information on the investigation and arrest of 55-year-old Wildomar resident, Rodolfo DeHoyos.

The investigation on DeHoyos began during the last few weeks of 2014. The initial complaints on DeHoyos came from numerous small businesses within the City and County of Riverside. DeHoyos would represent himself as an advocate for the disabled community and leave "notices of violation" at each business, alleging violation of ADA access laws. DeHoyos identified himself as the owner of "ADA Advocates and Consulting."

The businesses who were contacted by DeHoyos said that he would follow up on the violation notices with e-mails, letters, phone calls, and even "in person" visits to the business. Victims said that DeHoyos wanted monetary "settlements" for their ADA violations or he would sue them in Court for ADA Civil Rights Violations. DeHoyos told victims that he would be guaranteed an award up to \$40,000.00 in damages plus



attorney's fees if they did not comply with the monetary settlement. DeHoyos would demand settlements ranging from \$500.00 and up to \$10,000.00 from the various businesses.

On April 30, 2015, the Riverside Police Department and Riverside County District Attorney's Office served a search warrant at DeHoyos' home in Wildomar, CA. Evidence was recovered which showed that there were about 50 additional victims of extortion and theft. Preliminary information shows that DeHoyos has acquired over \$140,000.00 in "settlements" from various businesses in the city and county of Riverside.

The investigation revealed that DeHoyos was never denied access into any of the locations where he served notices of violation. DeHoyos was able to move about freely inside and outside the businesses without restriction. In fact, it appears that DeHoyos would use paid "runners" and associates to help him find businesses and serve them with violation notices.

After the search warrant was served, investigators arrested DeHoyos for Extortion and booked him into the Robert Presley Detention Center in Downtown Riverside. DeHoyos' initial bail was set at \$250,000.00. Initial charges against DeHoyos included 10 counts of Extortion by Letter and 10 counts of 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Burglary.

Investigators have continued to locate additional victims in this case. On May 7, 2015, DeHoyos' bail was increased to \$1 million dollars. The District Attorney's Office added 68 counts of Extortion by Letter, one count of Grand Theft, and one count of Money Laundering against DeHoyos.

The Riverside Police Department and Riverside County District Attorney's Office believe that there are many more victims who have not yet been identified. Investigators ask that victims or witnesses contact authorities at the number listed below.

If you have additional information concerning this investigation please contact  
Detective Brian Money at (951) 353-7118.

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